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ANNUAL REPORT

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GENERAL SCIENCES

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST

CONSERVATION BOARD

FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR
1955 - 56

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CALGARY, ALBERTA

MARCH 31st, 1956

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EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Calgary, Alberta,
June 28th, 1956.

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

The Honourable Jean Lesage,
Minister of Northern Affairs
and National Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

for the

FISCAL YEAR

1955-56

Your obedient servant,

Howard Kennedy,
Chairman.

Calgary, Alberta

March 31st, 1956

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD



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EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

Calgary, Alberta,
June 28th, 1956.

To

The Honourable Jean Lesage,
Minister of Northern Affairs
and National Resources,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith the
Annual Report of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conserva-
tion Board for the fiscal period April 1st, 1955 - March
31st, 1956, pursuant to the provisions of the Eastern
Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act of 1947. I am

Your obedient servant,

Howard Kennedy,
Chairman.

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EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

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June 28th, 1956.

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Your obedient servant,

Howard Kennedy,
Chairman.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

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* * * * *

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Chairman and Federal Member -

Howard Kennedy, C.B.E., M.C., B.Sc.

Alberta Members

H. G. Jensen, LL.B.

A. T. Baker, B.A.

* * * * *

Secretary

J. M. Marshall

Administrative Officer

George Tunstell, B.Sc.F.

Chief Forester

W. R. Hanson

* * * * *

It has been a year of reorganization of personnel establishment involving amalgamation of the Office of the Senior Superintendent of the Alberta Forest Service for the Reserve with that of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board.

Office reorganization was carried out with a minimum of delay and at no time did the field work suffer because of the effort diverted to the amalgamation. It was felt desirable to have someone with wide experience in the affairs of the Board present during the early stages of the reorganization and for a settling-down period thereafter.

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

The fiscal year 1955-56 was the first year of operations following the capital period which terminated on March 31st, 1955. During the previous years funds for the development of the area were provided by the Federal Government. During the year under review operations were on a maintenance basis with all funds supplied by the Province of Alberta.

One major change was made in the organization of the Board. By an amendment to the Acts creating the Board the Province of Alberta became entitled to appoint two members and to name the Chairman. Formerly the Federal Government had two members including the Chairman.

Following the retirement of Mr. George Tunstall on March 31st, 1955, as a Federal member, Mr. A. T. Baker, General Manager of the Alberta Wheat Pool, was welcomed to the Board as a Provincial member. The Province of Alberta very graciously requested the former Chairman to remain in that position for the 1955-56 fiscal year, despite its right to appoint one of its members to the position.

It has been a year of reorganization of personnel establishment involving amalgamation of the Office of the Senior Superintendent of the Alberta Forest Service for the Reserve with that of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board.

Office reorganization was carried out with a minimum of delay and at no time did the field work suffer because of the effort diverted to the amalgamation. It was felt desirable to have someone with wide experience in the affairs of the Board present during the early stages of the reorganization and for a settling-down period thereafter.

Mr. Tunstell, who had been a member of the Board since 1950, accepted a position as Administrative Officer and assumed duties as such in June. The period of his employment was not definitely set but Mr. Tunstell hopes to be relieved during the fiscal year 1956-57.

Gravelling the Trunk Road north of the Red Deer River, mentioned as unfinished in last year's report, was completed using funds supplied by the Government of Alberta in addition to the allotment provided for general maintenance and administration.

A ceremony at which the Senate, the House of Commons and the Alberta Government were represented and which was attended by the Press, the public and representatives of various interested associations was held at the Red Deer River Crossing on 10th September to open, officially, the Trunk Road built on the Forest Reserve by the Board and which now extends from Coleman to Nordegg.

A demonstration of fire-fighting, including extinguishing a bush fire, was followed by a lunch at the Red Deer picnic shelter. Following this the Chairman, the Minister of Lands and Forests of Alberta, the Honourable N. A. Willmore, Mr. R. F. L. Hanna, M. P. for Edmonton - Strathcona, and Mr. H. G. Jensen, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests and a Board member, spoke briefly. This ceremony marked officially the completion of the programme of capital expenditure sponsored by the Federal Government and the changeover to an equally important but less spectacular programme of maintenance administration and development of fundamental data necessary to the long-term management of the area on a scientific basis.

Practically all building operations reported as unfinished at the end of last year were completed during the year under review. Normal construction and

maintenance was carried out on all roads and buildings in the Reserve area.

The amalgamation of offices and the fact that all funds of the Board, except half of the cost of fighting fires in excess of \$10,000 in any season, are provided by the Government of Alberta, has made advisable certain revisions in accounting and auditing practices in order to bring them into conformity with Alberta Government procedures. Simplification of inventory and financial control together with adequate vehicle logs, etc. was initiated during the year. This became feasible following the office amalgamation. Some of the details of these rearrangements are included in the Secretary's report.

It is gratifying to report that surface revenues from the Forest Reserve amounted to almost \$615,000. Expenses of maintenance and administration amounted to, roughly, \$430,800 and an extra sum approaching \$22,000 was provided by the Alberta Government for expenditures on miners' relief projects in the Crowsnest area. These projects were devoted to hand labour, mainly on roads and trails as mentioned later in the report of the Administrative Officer. They represent a sensible use of available labour on relief projects.

Range management and game control did not present any unusual problems during the year. There was a slight increase in grazing of domestic animals over the previous year, although still around 4,000 below the numbers permitted in 1949. It appears that grazing will level off at numbers equivalent to between 21,000 and 22,000 head of cattle for the grazing areas south of the Clearwater watershed. With easy access over the Board's roads to the Clearwater and North Saskatchewan pasturage the number of animals grazed in those areas will very likely increase considerably. Policy as to priority of game and domestic animals in the various areas must be decided upon before the domestic grazing potentialities of these watersheds are

calculated. Wild horses are still a seriously destructive element to the Clearwater and North Saskatchewan grazing areas and efforts toward their reduction in numbers have not yet met with much success.

Federal forest biologists report no threats apparent to the Forest Reserve from insects or other forest pests.

Fires caused negligible damage within the Board area during the past year. Out of a total of eleven fires, nine were caused by lightning, only one being started by a camper. This is sound evidence that the vigilance of the fire protection staff together with the propaganda aimed at educating the public is having a most beneficial effect. Forest protection personnel fought fifteen fires outside the boundaries of the Board area, two of which were widespread.

The Board believes that the Forest Service personnel on its area is of high calibre, second to none, and its road, tower and radio system and its up-to-date equipment, its fire prevention and suppression measures will compare favourably with those on any other area of similar size in Canada.

The staff at Board headquarters numbered twelve at the end of the year with seven others on duty in the field.

The Crowsnest Forest staff consists of five at headquarters in Blairmore and fifteen in the field.

The Bow River Forest staff consists of six at headquarters in Calgary and twenty-five in the field.

The Clearwater Forest staff consists of six in the office at Rocky Mountain House and fourteen in the field.

H. G. Jensen, Alberta Member,
A. T. Baker, Alberta Member.

Total of all personnel permanently employed within the Board area is ninety.

There was a modest increase over last year in the forest material removed from the area during 1955-56 and the demand for timber continues to grow. All cutting operations were in mature stands and cutting was rigidly controlled so as to conform with the plans approved by the Board.

Exploration for oil and gas continue to expand within the Board area and many miles of seismic roads and trails are developed each season. These are carefully supervised to prevent undue damage and to collect dues on timber cut or destroyed.

Studies on meteorological conditions, soils, vegetation, etc. are continuing and a valuable accumulation of basic data is being compiled.

Details of all the above activities appear in the reports of the various officers of the Board following this Members' report.

The Board again gratefully acknowledges the unfailing support of both the Federal and Provincial Governments in carrying out its task. The co-operation received at all levels has been of the highest possible order.

It is with pleasure that we record the loyalty, industriousness and cheerfulness of the various members of the staff at all levels, particularly at a time when the stress and strain inevitably associated with an amalgamation of two staffs to create one group might easily have resulted otherwise.

Howard Kennedy, Chairman,
H. G. Jensen, Alberta Member,
A. T. Baker, Alberta Member.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This report deals with the administration of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve carried out under the direction of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board.

ADMINISTRATION

AREA The boundaries of the Reserve were amended to include an additional six square miles in the Kananaskis Valley. This makes the total area, approximately 8,953 square miles. Of this, title to about 17 square miles is held by private citizens or corporations; and the Crown in the right of Canada has title to the Ya-Ha-Tinda ranch, an area of 16 square miles, more or less.

The following table gives a summary of these 8,953 square miles by ranger districts for the three forests comprising the Reserve.

Clearwater Forest:

Brazeau	656	
Saskatchewan	3,067	
Clearwater	973	4,696

Bow River Forest:

Red Deer	680	
Ghost	666	
Kananaskis	494	
Jumping Pound	108	
Elbow	339	
Sheep	260	
Highwood	368	2,915

Crowsnest Forest:

Willow Creek	106	
Porcupine	218	
Livingstone	476	
Coleman	160	
Castle	382	1,342
		<hr/>
		8,953

PERSONNEL Mr. S. R. Hughes was appointed as Assistant Administrative Officer in November, with the understanding that he would take over from the Administrative Officer when he retires in the fiscal year 1956-57.

Mr. F. V. Keats was transferred from the office of Superintendent of the Clearwater Forest to the comparable position on the Bow River Forest.

Two new appointments as Forest Superintendent were made, Mr. J. F. Hogan being placed in charge of the Crowsnest Forest and Mr. R. G. Steele in charge of the Clearwater Forest.

Mr. John Morden, who for many years has been a forest officer on the Porcupine district was retired in February on account of age.

A few new positions were established in the class of office clerks and mechanic operators.

There have been a considerable number of changes in the field staff due to resignations, transfers and new appointments.

The following table shows the personnel establishment as of March 31st, 1956:

Reserve Headquarters

Office

- 1 - Administrative Officer
- 1 - Secretary
- 1 - Chief Forester
- 1 - Engineer
- 1 - Forester
- 1 - Accountant
- 1 - Draftsman
- 1 - Technician
- 2 - Stenographers
- 1 - Typist
- 1 - Clerk

Field

- 1 - Maintenance Foreman
- 1 - Mechanical Foreman
- 1 - Road Foreman
- 1 - Mechanic
- 2 - Gradersmen
- 1 - Warehouseman

Crowsnest Forest

Office

- 1 - Superintendent
- 1 - Assistant Superintendent
- 1 - Chief Ranger
- 1 - Clerk
- 1 - Stenographer

Field

- 1 - Mechanic-operator
- 4 - District Rangers
- 5 - Assistant Rangers
- 5 - Lookoutmen

Bow River Forest

Office

- 1 - Superintendent
- 1 - Assistant Superintendent
- 1 - Chief Ranger
- 1 - Clerk
- 2 - Stenographers

Field

- 1 - Mechanic-operator
- 6 - District Rangers
- 11 - Assistant Rangers
- 7 - Lookoutmen

Clearwater Forest

Office

- 1 - Superintendent
- 1 - Assistant Superintendent
- 1 - Chief Ranger
- 1 - Clerk
- 2 - Stenographers

Field

- 1 - Mechanic-operator
- 3 - District Rangers
- 6 - Assistant Rangers
- 4 - Lookoutmen

Total Reserve staff - - - 90.

PROPERTY A physical inventory of all equipment was
INVENTORIES started during the year. This is preliminary to a general tightening up on the responsibility of forest officers for equipment in their charge.

A number of years have elapsed since an actual check was made on property and in the interim some items

have been worn out, some have been lost and a few have become obsolete.

Until the current year, two property inventories have been maintained, one for equipment purchased from Provincial funds and the other for equipment purchased from Federal funds. As all equipment belongs to the Board and there is no logical reason for separation, the two records have been combined.

With the elimination of duplication in records, a physical check on property, the writing-off of worn out or obsolete equipment, and appropriate action on responsibility for lost or stolen equipment, it is anticipated that accountability for property will soon be on a realistic basis.

A bridge was built over the Blackstone River to replace one which had been washed out. A new bridge site was selected which appears to give a better chance of success. The Triad Oil Company, who were carrying on work north of the Blackstone River, assisted to about 40% in financing the construction of this bridge.

TRUNK ROAD The initial construction of this road was completed during the previous year except for gravelling on a section between the Red Deer and Clearwater Rivers. On this portion of the road nearly 10,000 yards of pit-run and 1,750 yards of crushed gravel was hauled. Several narrow places on the grade were widened which involved the hauling of 5,415 yards of fill. In addition, the grade and right-of-way were widened for a distance of six miles where the route of the Trunk Road followed the James River Road.

Considerable material which had slipped into the ditches was removed with the dragline, particularly on sections of the road north of the Red Deer River.

CONSTRUCTION

BRIDGES Timbers were cut for two bridges across the James River which when completed will bypass the steep hill near the Wilson River and the bridge over this stream. A start was made on the construction of one of these two bridges early last winter but cold weather, with deep frost penetration, stopped operations.

The cribs on which the bridges over the Saskatchewan and Clearwater Rivers rest were being undermined and the rock in them had been taken out by running water. The cribs were refilled with hard rock of large size.

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Considerable material which had slipped into the ditches was removed with the dragline, particularly on sections of the road north of the Red Deer River.

The self-propelled graders travelled a total distance of 6,789 miles, most of which was on 293 miles of the Trunk Road.

OTHER ROADS Livingstone Lookout - A road was bulldozed to a new site for the Livingstone lookout, a distance of about 3 miles.

Fallen Timber - This truck trail was extended a distance of one mile to the Bouck lumber road, making a total distance for this road of 6 miles.

Red Deer Access - This road was improved by spreading 1,000 yards of pit-run gravel and by dragging with one of the self-propelled graders.

Miscellaneous - The following roads were improved with bulldozer equipment, - Sheep Creek (Access), Evans-Thomas, Onion Lake, North Ram, Pekisko.

The following roads were cleared of fallen timbers and otherwise improved, using hand tools, by a crew of miners from the Crowsnest Pass who were employed through special funds provided in order to relieve the unemployment situation in that area:

Castle River Truck Trail

York Creek Road

Allison Creek Road

North West Branch Truck Trail

Sugarloaf Lookout Road

Middle Kootenay Pass Trail.

This crew also built a new trail up Grizzly Creek.

MAINTENANCE

General maintenance work was carried out on other roads under the direction of the three forest superintendents.

BUILDINGS The building programme was nearly completed during the fiscal year 1954-55.

During the year under review there was little new construction but a number of buildings were completed.

A lookout tower was erected on Sugarloaf Mountain in the Livingstone district.

Three ranger cottages were completed during the year, two at Nordegg and the third at the James Ranger Station.

Two barns were built, one in the Highwood and the other in the Kananaskis district.

A bunkhouse was constructed at Nordegg. Two patrol cabins were built, one at Fallen Timber Creek in the Bow River Forest and the other on the Saskatchewan River in the Clearwater Forest.

Two storehouses were completed, one at Nordegg and the other in the Clearwater district.

Two garages, started in the previous year, were completed, one at the James and the other at the Shunda Ranger Station.

Two small offices were completed, one at the Nordegg and the other at the Clearwater Ranger Station.

An implement shed was built at the Sheep Ranger Station.

One camp shelter for the accommodation of picnickers was built near the Castle Ranger Station.

TELEPHONES Telephone lines in the Reserve were maintained by the ranger staff.

The telephone line from the Gap Ranger Station to the Porcupine district was abandoned, as were the lines from Willow Creek Ranger Station to Pekisko cabin and the Cameron lookout.

Part of a new metallic line between the Porcupine Ranger Station and Johnson Brothers sawmill was built. The total distance of this line is 4 miles of which 2 1/2 miles have been finished. This line connects with the Alberta Government Telephones and the Cowley Exchange.

SAWMILL The ranger staff again operated the sawmill last winter to cut building and bridge timbers. The quantity sawn was 115,000 feet board measure, most of which was 3" plank for wearing strips on bridges.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT Cars, trucks, tractors, graders and other equipment were overhauled during the winter to make them serviceable for the summer of 1956.

The use of log sheets for all mechanical equipment was started during the year. This is a monthly sheet which is checked carefully at the office to assure that the operator is taking proper care of the vehicle entrusted to him and to fix responsibility in case of breakdowns resulting from lack of normal care.

PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES

The search for gas and oil in the Forest Reserve has been intensified. Seismic investigations are proceeding throughout the whole area with a number of companies being interested.

Petroleum and natural gas leases blanket most of the Reserve. Seismic lines have been bulldozed through bush and meadows in straight lines running up and down hill. In some places these lines are spaced about one-half mile apart, running parallel to each other. In most places lines are wider spaced. If the present pace is continued for a few more years, it is possible that the whole Reserve will be covered with such lines. Seismic lines must now total several hundred miles.

Drilling for gas and oil is under way at a number of sites. During the year under review, one well, a gasser, was brought into production. This is the second gas well in the same area and further producing wells are required to assure a commercial field.

RECREATION

TRAVEL The Forest Reserve is being used by the public more and more each year for fishing, hunting and other recreational activities.

The road from Seebe to Coleman is known to an increasing number of people. The road from the Bow Valley to Nordegg is not so well known but it also has a considerable amount of travel.

Travel on these two main roads, and on a number of secondary roads, will doubtless increase as more people get to know them and as they become better informed concerning the recreational opportunities available.

The picnic and camp grounds provided for the public are already used to their maximum capacity and further facilities are required. As soon as sufficient camping and cooking places are provided, it is proposed to prohibit the use of open fires for cooking and camping.

Traffic on road is particularly heavy in the Kananaskis Valley. Some of this is through traffic coming from, or headed for, the Highwood district but most of it is local and does not leave the valley.

Traffic checked into the Reserve in 1955-56 shows a sharp increase over the preceding year. Complete statistics have not been compiled but figures are available for the Bow River Forest. These show a registration of 66,742 people entering the Bow River Forest in 1955-56 as against 47,103 in the fiscal year 1954-55 -- an increase of 42% in one year!

FISH The streams and lakes of the Reserve are known far and near for trout fishing. Their close proximity to a settled rural and urban area assures their extensive use.

Roads which have been built in recent years provide easy access to most parts of the area and the intensity of fishing reaches a high level in many places. Portions of the Clearwater Forest are relatively inaccessible by motor roads and some streams on the other two forests are accessible by truck trails which are kept closed and are not available to the general public.

Our forest officers administer the fishing regulations on the Reserve. In some districts this requires considerable time while in others it is relatively unimportant.

Fishing success depends upon the availability of fish and the skill of the fisherman. There are places where the fish population is at such a low level that even the expert has little success. On the other hand there are places where even the novice might catch his limit.

A creel census has been maintained at the Spray Lakes for several years. The statistics for 1955 have not been compiled but a preliminary examination reveals that they are closely related to those of 1954, which show:

No. creel cards turned in	1,662
No. trout caught	2,636.

A further examination of the data shows that 61% of the fishermen were from Calgary, 22% were from local points (Canmore and Exshaw chiefly), 15% were from other Alberta points and 1% were residents of the U.S.A.

GAME Big game hunting is a popular sport and the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve is a popular big game area.

The big game season comes at a time of the year when danger from forest fires is usually over. The

fall of 1955 was an exception and there was still considerable fire danger when the game season opened. This danger was over early in November, at which time most of the truck trails which are closed to public travel during the summer were opened, allowing hunters easy access to many parts of the Reserve.

The hunting season for 1955 opened in a special area in the Clearwater Forest for sheep, goat, elk, deer and moose on September 1st and closed on October 31st.

On other parts of the Reserve the season for sheep and goats opened on September 1st and closed on October 31st. For elk, deer and moose the season opened on November 1st and closed on December 31st. For black and grizzly bear the season extended from September 1st to December 31st.

As the population of elk in the southern portion of the Reserve was at a high level in relation to available food supplies, the shooting of females as well as males was permitted south of the height of land between the Highwood and Livingstone Rivers.

The following statistics show the number of animals reported at check stations as being shot on the Forest Reserve:

Number of Animals Killed by Forest Areas

	<u>Crowsnest</u>	<u>Bow River</u>	<u>Clearwater</u>	<u>Total</u>
Male Elk	123	182	51	356
Female Elk	194	-	-	194
Moose	-	296	309	605
Deer	55	270	107	432
Sheep	-	41	35	76
Goat	-	11	11	22
Bear	-	6	4	10
			Grand Total	1,695.

The actual number of animals shot will be in excess of that shown above as some would be removed at points where there was no checking station.

Our forest officers enforce the game laws on the Forest Reserve. They spend considerable time on game patrols and assist the Game Branch in establishing and manning checking points to obtain a census of animals killed and to enforce the game laws.

TRAPPING

Considerable trapping is done on the Forest Reserve. This is under license on registered trap lines. Our forest officers maintain a close check to guard illegal trapping. No statistics are available for the Forest Reserve as a unit as to the number of pelts taken.

G. Tunstell,
Administrative Officer.

The production of lumber, ties and lath amounted to 64.81 million feet board measure as compared to 62.25 million a year ago, or an increase of a little more than 4 per cent. The comparative figure for two years ago was 46.5 million. Poles, posts, rails and other forms of round timber amounted to 2.75 million lineal feet as compared to 2.52 million last year. The great increase in applications for timber and the appreciable increase in production occurred mostly in the Clearwater Forest.

FOREST MANAGEMENT Steps were taken to initiate integrated forest management on the conservation area. The three forests were divided tentatively into forest management or conservation units. Work on the plans is continuing.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FORESTER

FOREST OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

LOGGING The demand for new timber berths reached an all-time high and there was an increase in production again in 1955. The Board dealt with 25 applications for new Licensed Timber Berths of which 21 were approved. An even greater number were on hand at the end of the year because the field staff was inadequate to do the cruising. In all cases the approved applications were for mature or over-mature timber while those rejected were for timber considered not ready for cutting or for timber in the Dutch Creek or James River blocks which is being withheld temporarily. Spruce comprised most of the timber approved for sale although one berth was mainly pine poles. The berths approved were generally smaller in size than in previous years, only two exceeding five million feet board measure.

On March 31st, 1956, 104 Licensed Timber Berths were active as compared with 92 on the corresponding date of the previous year. Besides these, there were 17 Special Berths and 33 Settlers' Permits.

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FOREST PROTECTION

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION The year 1955-56 was not particularly hazardous for forest fires. The spring hazard, commonly experienced in the Clearwater Forest was below normal in 1955. The summer hazard was high in the Crowsnest Forest but normal to low elsewhere. Winter weather dominated the area toward the end of October eliminating further fire danger.

Forest fire losses were very low again in 1955. The total area burned was only 8.35 acres, an insignificant fraction of the Reserve. The total amount of timber destroyed amounted to only 22 cords.

Eleven fires occurred within the conservation area which approximates the 1948-54 average of 10.3 fires per year. All were brought under control while small.

Lightning again was the principal cause and was responsible for 9 fires or 82 per cent of the total. Man-caused fires numbered only two and only one was caused by a camper.

The ranger staff took action on 15 fires outside the Reserve. Two of these reached serious proportions. The Graveyard fire at Blairmore proved very difficult and costly to mop up because of steep and broken terrain. The Longview fire covered more than 5,000 acres of grassland.

The staff made numerous contacts with the public, stressing fire prevention. Some addressed public meetings and all field staff emphasized the need for care to campers and sportsmen entering the Reserve. Fire posters were used. The co-operation of the press and radio in publicizing the great need for precaution during hazardous periods was appreciated.

The development of a fire control plan was carried further. Sets of panoramic photographs were taken from all lookouts in the Bow River Forest and were mounted and ready for use in fire detection during 1956. Part of the photographs for lookouts in the Crowsnest and Clearwater Forests were finished. Work on a complete fire-control plan for the Reserve was initiated.

PROTECTION AGAINST INSECTS AND DISEASE

The Division of Forest Biology of the Federal Department of Agriculture has continued to carry out observations and investigational work in the Reserve.

There are no serious insect or disease infestations to report. The bark beetle threat in the Porcupine Hills has not developed but a locally serious outbreak occurred in the residual stand of a selective cut on the Forest Experimental Station at Kananaskis. There seems little danger of it spreading. The pine needle miner population continues to decline.

Mistletoe in lodgepole pine remains widespread but there is no significant increase in its prevalence or damage done.

The grazing of wild horses on forest range still constitutes a major use in the Ghost, Clearwater and Saskatchewan Ranger Districts. Permits for the capture of wild horses have been issued but the number removed from the Reserve constitutes little more than the natural increase in population. The number of wild horses removed from the entire Clearwater Forest was 167 in 1954 and 227 in 1955. Some more effective means is needed to solve the problem.

MANAGEMENT

Range management plans continued in effect in all grazing allotments. Inspections were made in five and showed general improvement in condition but in some local areas improvement is

RANGE MANAGEMENT

GRAZING During 1955 approvals were issued for the grazing of 20,739 cattle, 372 horses and 1,015 sheep. This is the equivalent of 21,365 cattle which may be compared with 21,096 last year and 25,254 in 1949. Although the number of cattle grazed has been reduced since 1949 it seems to be levelling off at a little above 21,000 head and can be expected to remain at about that number for the area now in use. However, increases in numbers can be expected as new grazing areas are established.

Big game animals are important users of the range resource inside the Forest Reserve. Although no statistical data are available there is evidence from the condition of the range that the population has increased over recent years. Overgrazing by big game with the resulting depletion of the range was limited to local areas. Elk winter range in the Castle, Livingstone, Porcupine and Highwood Ranger Districts was mostly still in poor condition. Some damage to game winter range by moose and elk was noted in a few limited areas from the Elbow River northward in the Reserve.

The grazing of wild horses on forest range still constitutes a major use in the Ghost, Clearwater and Saskatchewan Ranger Districts. Permits for the capture of wild horses have been issued but the number removed from the Reserve constitutes little more than the natural increase in population. The number of wild horses removed from the entire Clearwater Forest was 167 in 1954 and 227 in 1955. Some more effective means is needed to solve the problem.

MANAGEMENT Range management plans continued in effect in all grazing allotments. Inspections were made in five and showed general improvement in condition but in some local areas improvement is

inadequate considering the good growing seasons of the past several years. The inspections indicated that a re-survey and modification of existing plans is needed for some grazing allotments.

GRAZING Assistance was given in formulating a new set
ADMIN- of regulations to the grazing sections of the
ISTRATION Forest Reserves Act. A set of administrative
 procedures to accompany the grazing regula-
tions was written up. Two file card forms were designed for
use in the Forest Offices in connection with grazing use. All
these will go into effect as soon as the regulations are passed
by Council. Additional forms for inspecting and reporting
grazing activities were developed and were used by the ran-
gers. It is anticipated that by bringing the grazing adminis-
trative procedures up to date, management of the grazing
resource will improve.

More consideration is being given to conditions
of sale of Timber Berths as they pertain to watershed con-
dition and streamflow and to seismic operations and oil
development as they affect erosion and gullying.

W. R. Hanson,
Chief Forester.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Precipitation records from approximately one hundred storage-type gauges have been collected and compiled to give a pattern of snowfall and rain over the Reserve. Streamflow records are continuing to be taken by the Water Resources Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources on all major streams leaving the conservation area.

As an example of the data collected the precipitation and runoff for two river basins in the Reserve are cited. The precipitation on the Castle River basin, recorded in six storage gauges for 1955, was 29.5 inches and the runoff for the corresponding period was recorded at 23 inches. The ten-year average runoff for the same area was 25.4 inches. The precipitation, recorded in four gauges in the Elbow basin above Bragg Creek, was 26.1 inches and the runoff for the corresponding period was 11.4 inches. The 21-year average runoff for the Elbow was 13.3 inches.

More consideration is being given to conditions of sale of Timber Berths as they pertain to watershed condition and streamflow and to seismic operations and oil development as they affect erosion and gullying.

W. R. Hanson,
Chief Forester.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

As required under the provisions of the Eastern Rocky Mountains Forest Conservation Act the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources in Ottawa and the Minister of Lands and Forests of the Province of Alberta were kept informed of developments respecting the Board's programme throughout the period under review.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS Minutes of the Board meetings, five in number, held during the year in Calgary were recorded and transmitted to the respective Ministers.

FINANCE Funds for the maintenance and administration of the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve totaling \$430,505 were provided by the Province for the fiscal year under review, of which \$344,015 was allocated for the maintenance of the Forest Reserve and \$86,490 for administrative expenses made by the Board.

In addition to the foregoing, a sum of \$35,000 was provided by the Province under Special Warrant No. 1017/55 to provide for the operation of work crews in the Crowsnest Forest which were specifically set up as a relief measure to aid unemployed miners domiciled in the Crowsnest Pass area.

Subsequent to the close of the Capital period as at March 31st, 1955, the Government of Canada is not committed to make any further contribution in respect of capital improvements or current expenditures required by the programme formulated by the Board for each year except as specified under section nine of the Memorandum of Agreement dealing with forest fires within the Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve.

In the event that more than the sum of \$10,000 is expended by the Board fighting forest fires in such area in any one year, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Alberta shall each pay one-half of the amount by which the total cost of fighting forest fires in that area in that year exceeds the sum of \$10,000.

One bank account continued to be maintained with a Chartered Bank in Calgary from which to disburse administrative expenses of the Board, including salaries of the Board staff.

Maintenance Administration expenses during the year amounted to \$104,935 and the Province disbursed \$347,687 to cover operating expenses of the Alberta Forest Service within the area, which included expenditures totalling \$21,825 covering the cost of operating miners' relief crews under the Special Warrant provided for this purpose. This made a combined total on Maintenance Expenditures of \$452,622 assumed wholly by the Province of Alberta.

Fire suppression costs totalled \$234.00 for the season. Additional expenditures amounting to \$7,894 were incurred covering the cost of suppressing a fire in the Crowsnest Pass which originated in the Blairmore cemetery. As this fire, which burned over an area of some 185 acres, was outside the Forest Reserve the Board was reimbursed in full by the Provincial Department of Lands and Forests.

The accompanying certified statement of Assets and Liabilities, together with subsidiary schedules reflects in detail the financial operations of the Board for the period ending March 31st, 1956.

ACCOUNTING By agreement with the Provincial Audit and the Administrative Accountant the Board's accounting procedure was revised, effective November 1st, 1955, to provide for a more accurate record and better

financial control of commitments for materials and services as they are contracted for.

Arrangements were completed with the office of the Provincial Administrative Accountant for the Province to act as paying agent for all expenditures incurred by the Administrative and Reserve offices, with the exception of salaries of personnel employed by the Board who are not civil servants, together with Annuity payments, Hospital - Medical Plan premiums and Income Tax payments applicable to this group.

It was further agreed by all concerned that the Board will adhere, in so far as is practicable, to standard Provincial procedure for making purchases, except that it reserves the right to make limited purchases directly where the practice of following through the regular channels would result in delays with a consequent loss of efficiency.

REVENUE Revenue from surface rights derived by the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests in the Forest Reserve amounted to \$614,990 for the year under review as compared with \$496,059 for the previous year, an increase of \$118,930.

Details of revenues are as follows:

	<u>1955-56</u>	<u>1954-55</u>
Grazing Permits, Taxes and Reserve Permits	\$ 39,683.54	\$ 42,028.00
Hay Permits, Fees, Dues, Etc.	55.00	3.00
Miscellaneous Leases	1,259.88	1,555.62
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,015.83	1,584.75
Special Timber Permits	6,482.08	9,012.01
Timber Permits	5,874.47	7,827.83
Timber Fees, Rent, Etc.	12,483.72	11,516.12
Timber Dues	540,847.68	416,287.81
Administration Sundry Revenue	6,878.52	5,473.30
Previous Year's Refunds (Income)	12.84	----
Timber Miscellaneous Revenue	396.00	770.98
	<u>\$614,989.56</u>	<u>\$496,059.42</u>

ESTIMAT In addition to the foregoing, collections by the Province with respect to road tolls for the fiscal year 1955-56 amounted to \$3,947.50, bringing the cumulative balance on hand to \$8,500.29 since road tolls were established.

Reserve No. 1000000000 2158.225.00
The revenue thereby obtained is carried in a special Trust Fund set up by the Provincial Treasurer and may be paid to the Board on the thirty-first day of December of each year to be used for the construction of additional roads or for the maintenance of existing roads within the Forest Reserve as required.

ROUTINE WORKMEN'S The deposit of \$10,000 with the Alberta COMPENSA- Workmen's Compensation Board earned TION BOARD interest amounting to \$312.13 less administrative charges of \$71.69, a net increase of \$240.44. No claims were incurred by the Board staff during the year under review.

throughout the year.
An additional contingency reserve totalling \$5,136.19 including accrued interest to October 31st, 1955, remains on deposit with the Royal Bank of Canada, Calgary. Disposition of this fund will be determined upon establishment of a policy with regard to Workmen's Compensation claims incurred during the maintenance period of the agreement.

Secretary.
AUDITS By arrangement with the Auditor General of Canada the Provincial Auditor has agreed to make available to the Auditor General his observations with respect to the accounts of the Board, together with a certified financial statement. This arrangement will continue pending a proposed amendment to section nine of the Eastern Rocky Mountains Forest Conservation Act which specifies that: "All expenditures by the Board shall be subject to audit of the Auditor General."

ESTIMATES Estimates for the maintenance of the Forest Reserve for the fiscal year 1956-57 were drafted and approved by the Board totalling \$442,120 allocated as follows:

Reserve Headquarters	\$ 158,225.00
Crowsnest Forest	80,660.00
Bow River Forest	112,335.00
Clearwater Forest	80,900.00
Fire Fighting	10,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 442,120.00
	<hr/>

The foregoing were subsequently approved by the Legislature of the Province of Alberta under Vote 1906.

ROUTINE ADMINISTRATION Monthly Trial Balances and subsidiary schedules were submitted to the Board members promptly at the close of each month's business throughout the year.

Following the merger of the Provincial and Board personnel, office administration has functioned smoothly and efficiently.

J. M. Marshall,
Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

EDMONTON.

August 10, 1956

Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board
Calgary, Alberta

I have audited the books and records of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board for the year ended March 31, 1956, and submit the following statements herewith:

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Particulars</u>
A.	Balance Sheet
B.	Statement of Capital Expenditure
C.	Statement of Maintenance Expenditure
D.	Statement of Government of Canada and Government of Province of Alberta Equity
E.	Schedule of Movable Equipment

I certify that, in my opinion, the attached Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show the true financial position of the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board as at March 31, 1956, according to the information and explanations given to me and as shown by the books of the Board and the accompanying statements correctly set forth the result of transactions for the year ended at that date.

C. K. Huckvale, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 1956

(Established under the Eastern Rocky Mountain Forest Conservation Act,
and Operating under Agreement between the Government of Canada and the
Province of Alberta)

ASSETS

Cash on hand and in bank		\$	5,136.19
Deposits:			
Workmen's Compensation Board	\$ 10,240.44		
Annuity fund	<u>1,474.23</u>		
			11,714.67
Loose tools and small equipment			22,269.37
Movable equipment, less depreciation as per Statement E			218,939.89
Capital improvements and works			5,716,615.20
			<hr/>
		\$	<u>5,974,675.32</u>

Note: Section 20 of the Memorandum of Agreement set forth in the schedules to Chapter 5 Statutes of Canada, 1947 and Chapter 20, Statutes of Alberta, 1948 provides that upon termination of the Agreement,

- (a) All improvements or works resulting from the carrying out of the programmes of the Board shall belong to the Province;
- (b) All other property acquired by the Board shall belong to the Dominion.

Certified Correct

J. M. Marshall,
Secretary.

Approved on behalf of the Board

Howard Kennedy,
Chairman.

Statement A

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 1956

LIABILITIES

Deferred liability for equipment taken over from the Province of Alberta, to be discharged on termination of the Agreement \$ 25,376.01

Reserves:
Workmen's compensation claims \$ 5,376.63
Employee's retirement fund 1,474.23
6,850.86

Government of Canada and Government of Province of Alberta, equity as per Statement D 5,942,448.45

\$ 5,974,675.32

Fixed assets:
Tractors and heavy equipment \$ 219,641.03
Carrs and trucks 101,544.73
Radio equipment 81,541.04
Forestry equipment 75,311.70
Camp and miscellaneous equipment 67,530.88
Office furniture and equipment 7,626.55
Livestock 82.52
543,586.11

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in my report of August 10, 1956, addressed to the Eastern Rockies Forest Conservation Board.

C. K. Huckvale, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

Note: Total expenses, disbursements, from inception to March 31, 1956, were made from funds provided by the Government of Canada (as authorized under Section 4 (a) of the Memorandum of Agreement), for the location and construction of forest headquarters, the making of a forest inventory, reforestation, and such other works and services as the Board may deem necessary in that area of the East Slope of the Rocky Mountains, and the watershed of the Saskatchewan River, as more fully set out in the Appendix to the Act. The total expenditure was not to exceed \$5,500,000.00 during the seven years ended March 31, 1955.

Statement B

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

STATEMENT OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO MARCH 31, 1955

Improvements and works:

New construction:

Roads and trails	\$ 5,247,063.30
Buildings	<u>195,701.80</u>

\$ 5,442,765.10

Other expenses:

Range and watershed survey	\$ 126,038.11
Radio network	57,072.24
Camping grounds	34,500.38
Stream gauging	18,090.73
Visibility mapping	8,139.94
Water resources survey	6,684.90
Boundary survey	5,078.20
Film production	2,464.68
Stock gates and entrance gates	2,660.98
Hay meadows	1,700.52
Miscellaneous improvements	4,905.40
Radio survey	1,464.70
Forest signs	2,436.07
Basic surveys and mapping	1,449.20
Telephone lines	<u>1,164.05</u>

273,850.10

\$ 5,716,615.20

Movable equipment:

Tractors and heavy equipment	\$ 216,841.03
Cars and trucks	101,594.73
Radio equipment	81,541.08
Forestry equipment	73,351.70
Camp and miscellaneous equipment	67,330.89
Office furniture and equipment	2,826.68
Livestock	<u>80.00</u>

543,566.11

18,724.79

Loose tools and small equipment

\$ 6,278,906.10

Note: Total capital disbursements, from inception to March 31, 1955, were made from funds provided by the Government of Canada (as authorized under Section 8 (a) of the Memorandum of Agreement), for the location and construction of forest improvements, the making of a forest inventory, reforestation, and such other works and services as the Board may consider necessary in that area of the East Slope of the Rocky Mountains forming part of the watershed of the Saskatchewan River, as more definitely described in the Appendix to the Act. The total expenditure was not to exceed \$6,300,000.00 during the seven years ended March 31, 1955.

Statement C

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD

STATEMENT OF MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1956

Maintenance expense:		
Salaries	\$ 237,285.07	
Wages	55,182.88	
Repairs and replacements (other than motor vehicles)	45,880.46	
Motor vehicle expense	32,008.73	
Travelling	16,350.11	
New construction, gravelling	14,977.57	
Camp supplies	5,646.80	
Heat, light and power	4,692.26	
Uniforms	4,187.05	
Rentals	4,007.58	
Printing, stationery and office supplies	2,809.96	
Insurance	2,348.95	
Telegrams and telephones	1,423.81	
Retirement annuity plan contributions	1,171.19	
Freight, express and cartage	1,161.00	
Postage	1,142.06	
Workmen's compensation claims	621.25	
Fire suppression (including wages)	233.74	
Unemployment insurance	41.82	
Miscellaneous supplies and expenses	<u>4,927.37</u>	
		\$ 436,099.66
Movable equipment, loose tools and small equipment:		
Cars and trucks	\$ 10,498.70	
Tractors, graders and heavy equipment	5,107.42	
Loose tools and small equipment	1,567.20	
Office furniture and equipment	7.75	
Miscellaneous equipment	<u>658.64 cr.</u>	
		<u>16,522.43</u>
		\$ <u>452,622.09</u>
Provided by:		
Prepaid expense at April 1, 1955	\$ 47.76	
* Appropriation 1906	347,687.51	
Appropriation 1913	<u>104,886.82</u>	
		\$ <u>452,622.09</u>

* Includes Miners' relief \$21,824.91

Note: The total amount expended by the Board was provided by the Government of the Province of Alberta in accordance with Section 2 (a) (ii) of the Memorandum of Agreement, dated June 17, 1953, between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of Alberta as set forth in the schedules to Chapter 41, Statutes of Canada, 1952, and Chapter 36, Statutes of Alberta, 1953.

The remuneration and expenses of members of the Board are paid by the Governments of Canada and the Province of Alberta in accordance with Section 2 (b) (iii) of the Memorandum of Agreement and are not included in the above statement.

Statement D

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARD
STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND GOVERNMENT
OF PROVINCE OF ALBERTA EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1956

Balance as at April 1, 1955		\$ 5,980,120.41
Add: Increment of movable equipment, loose tools and small equipment, net		<u>16,522.43</u>
		\$ 5,996,642.84
Deduct:		
Depreciation	\$ 47,489.10	
Amounts written off in respect of assets sold, retired or destroyed	6,657.53	
Prepaid expense	<u>47.76</u>	
		<u>54,194.39</u>
Government of Canada and Government of Province of Alberta equity as at March 31, 1956		\$ <u>5,942,448.45</u>

EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST CONSERVATION BOARDSCHEDULE OF MOVABLE EQUIPMENTAS AT MARCH 31, 1956

	Cost	Provision for Depreciation to March 31, 1956		Depreciated cost as at March 31, 1956
		Rate %	Amount	
Cars, trucks and trailers	\$ 123,376.92	20	\$ 69,591.02	\$ 53,785.90
Tractors and heavy equipment	226,714.66	20	172,816.01	53,898.65
Radio equipment	87,850.25	20	70,280.20	17,570.05
Miscellaneous, forestry, engineering, and camp equipment	133,015.35	10	65,266.26	67,749.09
Office furniture and equipment	12,989.79	10	8,360.47	4,629.32
Buildings, Columbia Ice Fields gauge house	586.80	10	469.60	117.20
Livestock	40.00	10	24.00	16.00
*Equipment taken over from the Province of Alberta	21,173.68	-	-	21,173.68
	<u>\$ 605,747.45</u>		<u>\$ 366,807.56</u>	<u>\$ 218,939.89</u>

* Note: Entered at depreciated cost as at April 1, 1948

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EASTERN ROCKIES FOREST
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